

Girl, 14, City's 8th Polio Victim

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BUILDING PERMITS HIT ALL-TIME RECORD HERE

Sophomore Girl Hit By Poliomyelitis

Torrance's eighth polio victim of 1953, Nancy Humphreys, a sophomore at Torrance High School, was stricken with the disease Wednesday night and was taken to the Los Angeles County General Hospital by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Philippe E. Humphreys of 1324 Crenshaw Blvd.

Two brothers of the stricken girl, Stephen 10, and Griffith, 2, were administered shots of gamma globulin by a local physician who requisitioned the serum from the County Health office here.

Dr. B. A. Kogan, district health officer, said the girl, formerly active in the Girl Scouts and currently active in the YWCA, was the eighth polio victim recorded in the City of Torrance since Jan. 1 of this year.

No Need for Alarm
He said there was no cause for alarm nor any reason for disturbing normal activities.

The stricken girl's father, an employee of the Axelson Manufacturing Co., stated that doctors at the communicable disease ward of the General Hospital reported his daughter's case as a mild one and expressed the opinion that she would be released from the hospital within six days. Her mother, Mrs. Carol Humphreys, long-time active worker in Harbor District Girl Scout activities, stated that her daughter had shown no signs of paralysis or crippling effects due to the disease.

"Like a Cold"
"Many persons in a crowded population such as we have here have contracted polio and have gone undetected. In many cases the disease has the symptoms of a common cold and is accepted as just that. Nancy's illness may only be a degree or two more intense than the 'common cold' variety of polio," Dr. Kogan stated.

The local health officer definitely spiked rumors, exaggerated as they were, and echoed, that there was cause for alarm.



(Photo Arts Photo)
NANCY HUMPHREYS
Polio Stricken

"Definitely not," he said, "this is simply another case of polio. However, as always at this time of the year parents should make certain their children observe good health habits and do not permit their children to become overly tired nor be allowed to become severely chilled."

Serum Scarce
Parents of several children believed "exposed" to polio during the past several weeks have requested gamma globulin serum to immunize their children. However, Dr. Kogan states that the supply of the serum is not sufficient, nor the need great enough to administer the blood derivative to persons other than those of the immediate household of a polio victim, and then only to persons under 30 years of age or to expectant mothers.

Union Gets New Turn Down by Press Publisher

A late attempt to settle differences between the San Pedro Typographical Union and the management of the Torrance Press, ended in a stalemate Thursday when the management of the weekly newspaper again refused to sign an agreement with the union.

Meeting with the owners of the newspaper, were A. C. Burgess, president of the San Pedro Typographical Union, Local 962; O. J. Mobley, organizer, and H. O. Neilson, executive board member and a member of the wage scale committee.

Representing the paper were William R. Zappas, president of the Southland Publishing Co., publishers of the Torrance Press, and Mrs. Mary Louise Owens vice-president.

A union spokesman declined to comment on the outcome of the meeting other than to state that Zappas had refused to sign a contract with the union covering the operation of a commercial printing plant operated by the Torrance Press and use of the union label in the newspaper. The union last week ordered the removal of the union label from the masthead of the Press because the management and union could not reach an agreement covering the leased use of the union "bug."

The Torrance Press maintains an office here but it is composed and printed in a Los Angeles printing plant. The newspaper's office in Torrance is under the jurisdiction of the San Pedro Typographical Union. The Torrance Herald, owned and published by Mrs. Grover C. Whyte, is edited, composed and is published each Thursday and Sunday. The Herald is a completely union newspaper having operating agreements with the San Pedro Typographers Union, the Los Angeles Stevedopers Union, and the San Pedro Pressmen's Union. It is the only newspaper published and printed in Torrance permitted to display the union "bug" signifying compliance with accepted union practices and procedures.

City Officials See \$25 Million in Year

Torrance may have a \$25,000,000 building record this year. Every building permit issued in Torrance during the next four months will set a new all-time record, according to figures compiled this week by Walter C. Bradford of the city's building department.

Last year's all-time record of \$18,266,750 in building permits issued here was topped in less than eight months in 1953 as the totals Thursday soared to \$19,105,164 with the issuance of permits to the Ellinwood Corp. for 84 homes.

Contributing to the record-building year in Torrance has been the terrific home building pace which has been maintained throughout the city during the year—and all indications point to a continuance of the housing boom here at least throughout the rest of the year.

New Industries
Also contributing a major share of the new construction were several new industries, led by the Carbon and Carbide Chemical Co. and the new Torrance plant of the Dow Chemical Co. In addition to the new industries, several major expansions, particularly at the General Petroleum refinery, have helped to boost the totals.

New tract maps to come before the Planning Commission last Wednesday called for a total of nearly 300 homes with a valuation of more than 2½-million dollars. All of these proposed homes would be in North Torrance.

Only the first few permits for the huge Ellinwood development in South Torrance have been issued, and plans to develop the area west of Hawthorne Ave. between Del Amo Blvd. and 190th St. are still being studied. To be started right away is a new Goodyear retail store at the corner of Emgracia and Torrance Blvd.

Plans for a shopping center at Palmdale Blvd. and Palms Verdes Blvd. have been submitted to the Planning Commission for study.

Other such developments, now in the planning stage, should keep new construction here at a record-breaking pace for some time, city officials say.

Officer Fires Shot To Halt Wild Chase

A three-mile chase through Shoestring Strip streets early yesterday ended up at Vermont Ave. and East Rd. when a San Pedro officer fired at a fleeing auto containing three Torrance teenagers.

The high-speed chase started near 215th St. and Halldale Ave. when a San Pedro patrol car attempted to stop the car with three 18-year-old boys for routine check. The police chased the auto for three miles with red light and siren at speeds up to 85 miles an hour, they reported.

The chase was finally ended when Officer E. R. Mayo leaned out the patrol car window and fired a shot from his service revolver at the side of the car. "Get Whiz! Whatcha stoppin us for," the boys were quoted by arresting officers.

Two of the 16-year-old lads were booked at San Pedro Police Station for lack of supervision and the third was booked on suspicion of grand theft auto.

Postman Rings Twice, Leaves Letter and Girl

The postman called at the house of Mrs. Jane Jenke, 22621 Susana Ave. Friday morning and left a letter and a little girl.

The little girl did not belong to Mrs. Jenke and had forgotten her return address. The postman discovered her crying on the curb in front of the Jenke residence and took her to Mrs. Jenke, thinking she was a neighbor's child.

A quick call to the Torrance police department returned the girl, Helen Welborn, 8, to the neighbor, Elizabeth R. Hansen, of 22304 Shadycroft Ave., who was taking care of her for her mother.

WEATHER

The weather bureau predicts that it will be mostly clear today but with local fog and low clouds early this morning near the beaches. Little change in temperature is expected, with a high of 88 inland and 75 at the beaches, and a low of 60.

Light, variable winds are expected off the coast, 12 to 18 miles per hour.

Cpl. Robert J. Grieve Discharged from Army

Cpl. Robert J. Grieve, husband of Mrs. Jean F. Grieve, 2439 Cabrillo Ave., Torrance, was discharged from the Army this week at the Quartermaster Training Command, Fort Lee, Va.

Cpl. Grieve, a ration breakdown clerk, was assigned to Hq. and Hq. Co. QM RTC. Before his induction into the Army, Cpl. Grieve worked as a crane operator in Torrance.

Motion Denied; Tidwell Ordered To Trial Oct. 2

After a brief court appearance on Friday, Haskell Tidwell, ousted secretary-treasurer of the San Pedro Retail Clerks Union, was ordered to stand trial on Oct. 2 on three misdemeanor charges in the South Bay Municipal Court.

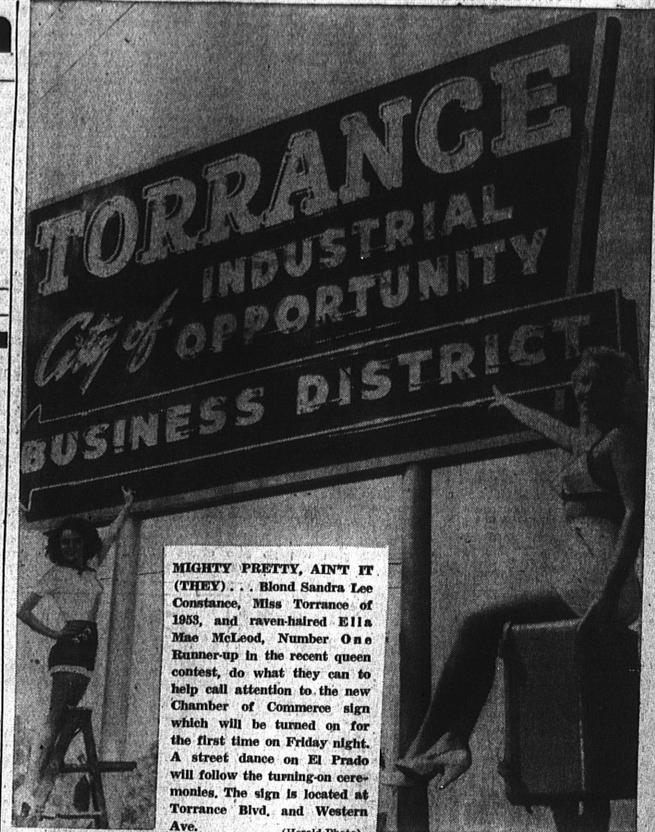
He has asked for a jury trial. The ex-union official is charged with assault, exhibiting a gun in an angry and threatening manner in the presence of witnesses and carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.

On Friday he appeared in court and sought dismissal of the charges through his attorney Alexander Schulman. The court denied the motion for dismissal.

The complaint against the former leader of Local 905 of the Retail Clerks Union which has jurisdiction over clerks employed in Torrance was signed by Wally Elliott, president of the union. Elliott charges that Tidwell threatened him in his home last June during an argument over union affairs. Elliott was one of several union officials which brought charges against Tidwell. He was subsequently dismissed by international officers.



(Herald Photo)
READY FOR HIKE . . . Two of the 20 Scouts from the Moose Lodge-sponsored Troop 315 get ready to make the Silver Moccasin hike in the High Sierras. Here Robby Eddens (left) helps Anthony Cicero get his heavy pack on as they were ready to leave for the mountains Friday evening.



Big Street Dance To Hail New Sign

Music, hot dogs, pop, and novelties will be the order of the day—or rather evening—next Friday night when the Chamber of Commerce celebrates the turning on of a new neon directional sign at Torrance Blvd. and Western Ave.

The "turn on" celebration will be staged on El Prado between Sartori and Craves and the actual turning on will be done by remote control, according to Chamber President Robert I. Plomert, Jr.

Booths featuring everything from wheels of fortune to push cart tamales will line the business street. Signed up to occupy the booths are the Lions Club, Civitan, Boy Scouts, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Women of the Moose, Veterans of Foreign War Auxiliary, North Torrance Civic Improvement Assoc., JayCettes, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Democratic Club, Sea Scouts, Knights of Columbus, and the Scroptimists.

Dancing in the streets will be to the tunes of Manny Harmon and his Movieland Band. Harmon plays for the Miss Universe contest, the annual I Am An American Day in the Hollywood Bowl, for the Pasadena Rose Parade coronation ball, and is under contract to RKO studios.

Following the official "turn on" by Mayor Mervin M. Schwab, Chamber President Plomert will officially present the sign to the city.

The sign was financed through subscriptions by Torrance merchants.

Planners Defer Action on Oil Drilling Request

A petition of the Revo Oil Co. for a variance and conditional permit for the erection of a derrick and other facilities to drill for oil in the WALTERIA Lake area was held over for further committee study when presented to the Planning Commission here Wednesday evening.

Site of the proposed new drilling is west of Hawthorne Ave. between 236th St. and Pacific Coast Hwy.

The Commissioners were told by Planning Consultant Earle Lloyd that the city's oil ordinance would cover the granting of a variance, but that he recommended that the body stipulate the safety measures it wanted on the site.

J. M. Jossen, attorney for the Revo Oil Co., told the planners that tentative approval of the location had been received from the Civil Aeronautics Authority. Jossen said his company planned to use a portable drilling rig and he assured the planning body that they would "not keep a drilling rig there at the cost of three or four hundred dollars a day any longer than necessary."

A plea to strengthen the oil ordinance with respect to brine sumps, types of quarry rails, and types of motor-drivenequipment was voiced by Land Use Investigator George Powell. A committee headed by Commissioner W. A. Felker was appointed to study the proposal.

Space Pioneer Wins Prize For Telescope

To those who lack imagination, the days of exploration ended when the American pioneers drove the great Western frontier to the shores of the Pacific; but to others, the days of exploring and discovering new lands will never end—they have pushed their frontier into the boundless kingdom of space.

One of these space pioneers is busy on every clear night scanning the skies above Torrance in an attempt to solve some of the great mysteries of the ozone. His name—Clarke Harris; his weapon—a six-inch, Newtonian reflector, more commonly called a telescope.

Harris, who lives at 17010 Crenshaw Blvd. with his wife and two young daughters, built the telescope with his own hands, and it represents to him two and a half years of patient, painstaking labor.

Recently, his long hours of work were rewarded when he won first prize at the annual convention of the Western Amateur Astronomers Convention for the best all-around, amateur telescope. His scope was judged the best out of 50 entries.

Soupe Is Work of Art
The prize-winning telescope is quite a work of art. Built at a total cost of \$200, Harris estimates its worth now at over \$1000.

(Continued on Page 2)



(Herald Photo)
STAR GAZER . . . Amateur astronomer Clarke Harris fits a camera onto the eyepiece of his prize winning telescope, in order to photograph stars and meteors. The telescope rotates in such a way it can focus on any point that is above the horizon. This telescope cost Harris \$200 to build, now is worth more than \$1000.